

\$7.3 billion is directed to combat terrorism. The bill raises force end strength and provides for a 4.1 percent pay raise for our troops. Altogether, the bill addresses a range of defense programs that serve our national interest, some of which have particular relevance to Connecticut. It provides for much needed equipment and force modernization. For example, 39 Black Hawk type variant helicopters are authorized, 12 above the President's budget. These helicopters are crucial to meeting our strategic requirements: from helping our troops in the mountains of Afghanistan to performing a medical emergency evacuation here at home. So, for these reasons I commend the legislation to my colleagues and look forward to its passage.

IN HONOR OF STEPHEN
ROPFOGEL, RECIPIENT OF THE
2002 NEWS-PRESS MAN OF
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Stephen Ropfogel, who will receive the 2002 Man of Achievement Award at the 35th annual News-Press Achievements Awards at the Alex Theatre in Glendale, California on May 15, 2002. Each year, this award is given to a volunteer who demonstrates extraordinary commitment and dedication to community service.

Stephen Ropfogel was nominated by the Glendale Association for the Retarded, where he has served as President and Treasurer on the Board of Directors for the past four years. He has been vital in educating the community about people with disabilities and in creating new ideas for fund-raisers for the association. His "Summer in the City" fundraising program, conducted in partnership with local restaurants, is one example of his dedication as an innovative fund-raiser. He also was instrumental in implementing a jewelry-making venture by clients at the association's Self-Aid Workshop.

For the past five years, he has served on the Glendale Safe Place Executive Committee, which now provides 22 safe locations for youngsters to go if they are victims of child abuse or facing other dangers. He has also coordinated efforts between the Glendale Sunrise Rotary Club and Los Angeles County Medical Alliance for the awareness program "Not Even For A Minute," which reminds parents of the dangers of leaving youngsters unattended in a vehicle. Stephen is also credited with helping to save the annual Days of the Verdugos Parade, a terrific community parade honoring Glendale's heritage and an event in which I have been privileged to take part.

For his commitment to making Glendale a better and more caring community that treats people with disabilities with compassion and dignity, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in congratulating Stephen Ropfogel upon receiving the 2002 Man of Achievement Award.

TRIBUTE TO DR. GERALD E.
WRIGHT

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2002

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Gerald E. Wright of Denmark, South Carolina; a man who has dedicated his life to improving the educational opportunities and pursuits of young people in his community. For over thirty-five years, Dr. Wright has served the young people of his community and the State of South Carolina through his roles as a mentor, a teacher, and a superintendent.

Dr. Gerald E. Wright began his quest for higher education at Morehouse College, where he received a degree in Mathematics. He matriculated at South Carolina State College where he earned masters and Doctorate degrees in Education.

Dr. Wright began his career in education as a Mathematics Instructor at Voorhees College in 1965. He later held numerous positions, that included Federal Projects Coordinator, and Director of Support Programs for Denmark-Olar School District Two.

In 1992, Dr. Wright became Superintendent of Denmark-Olar School District Two in Bamberg County, which is currently in my Congressional district. It was as Superintendent that he made some of his most indelible marks on the school system. His accomplishments include: the establishment of a JROTC Unit at Denmark-Olar High School, the initiation of block scheduling, the improvement of parent education through the PEP STEP Program, and the addition of a Coordinator of Student Services, among many others.

He hired additional staff and teachers through Title I funds which included a School-to-Work Coordinator. He reinstated the music program, and reorganized the Gifted and Talented Program. Dr. Wright also implemented "community involvement night" giving parents and members of the community a forum to discuss pertinent issues affecting the school. Because of Dr. Wright's initiatives, High school students in his school district have had the opportunity to receive educational experiences in a more conducive environment. Dr. Wright is currently contributing to his community as an Instructor of Mathematics at Denmark Technical College.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in honoring Dr. Gerald E. Wright, a man who deserves recognition for his role in improving the educational system of Bamberg County and South Carolina. I commend him on his dedication to others, and wish him Good Luck and Godspeed.

TRIBUTE TO THE DEFENSE
SUPPLY CENTER RICHMOND

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2002

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to represent many of the men and women who serve at the Defense Supply Center Richmond. They perform duties that are absolutely

essential to the smooth operations of our armed forces, though they may seem unglamorous to a nation that considers the television show JAG to be a peek into the life of the average servicemember.

And, they perform these duties with great pride in their work—an ethic that is evident in their most recent accomplishment.

These men and women have recently been chosen to receive a 2002 Commander-in-Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence. They are only one of five commands to achieve this distinction for their exemplary support of the Department of Defense mission. The Center received this award several times during the last decade—1991, 1993, 1994, and 1997—an unprecedented record. But, particularly now, as men and women in uniform are fighting a war overseas and our national defense at home is on alert, honoring their support of the DOD mission takes on new meaning.

On behalf of all the citizens of Virginia's Fourth District, I wish to thank the men and women of the Defense Supply Center Richmond for their dedication to duty, their quiet dignity, and their ceaseless quest for excellence in their daily labors.

TRIBUTE TO MR. THOMAS JOSEPH
NYMAN

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2002

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Mr. Thomas Joseph Nyman of Abington, Pennsylvania. For 30 years Mr. Nyman has taught Social Studies at Abington High School. I recognize him today as he is retiring at the conclusion of the 2001–2002 school year.

Throughout his career, Tom is a pillar in his community and has played an active role in improving his surroundings and bettering the students he taught.

Tom honorably served his country as a sergeant in the United States Air Force where he served on active duty from 1964–1968 as an intelligence analyst. After returning home, Tom received both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in Education from West Chester University. He then went on to earn a Master of Arts from Villanova University.

Active in his community through the American Red Cross where he has been a volunteer instructor since 1961, Tom also served with the Plymouth Community Ambulance from 1971–1979. He was a coach for his children's teams in the Glenside Youth Athletic Club and served in various parish ministries for St. Luke's Church in Glenside, Pennsylvania. He volunteered in the Abington Community Handicapped Swim program from 1990–1995. He is active in Citizen's and Police Together (CAPT), serving as the Co-Chair of the 24-Hour Relay Challenges in 1994 and 1995. Tom is also a volunteer instructor with the Brigantine, New Jersey Community USLA Junior Lifeguard program.

Tom is the recipient of many awards including the American Red Cross honor for 4,500 hours of volunteer service, the Abington Township Community Service Award, the Pennsylvania Community Crime Prevention Award,